Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing multiple grades of wireless service to ~~multiple~~ a plurality of ~~field users~~ subscriber units for communication of data between a base station and the plurality of ~~multiple~~ subscriber units over one or more CDMA communication channels, each grade of service having a corresponding priority level, the method comprising the steps of:

        ~~determining when a demand for resources of a base station exceeds a predetermined threshold;~~

        reserving a bandwidth and dividing the bandwidth into a plurality of traffic channels;

        maintaining a connection between ~~multiple~~ the plurality of subscriber units and the base station;

        detecting a request by ~~multiple field units~~ a plurality of subscriber units to simultaneously transmit data to the base station; and

        identifying a priority level of ~~user~~ a subscriber unit requesting allocation of ~~bandwidth~~ traffic channels for transmitting data information to the base station;

        allocating traffic channels for transmitting data information from the subscriber unit using the identified priority level of the subscriber unit depending on whether a previous historical usage of resources by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit exceeds a predetermined threshold, such that:

            if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit is higher

than the threshold, the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> is assigned a lower priority level for transmitting data information, <u>wherein</u> the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ <u>allocates</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> ~~to use of~~ fewer channels than <u>are</u> otherwise ~~allowed~~ <u>allocated</u> ~~when~~ <u>if assigned</u> a higher priority level ~~is assigned~~, and

if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> is lower than the threshold, the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> is assigned a higher priority level for transmitting data information, the high priority level ~~entitling~~ <u>allocates</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> use of the more channels than <u>are</u> otherwise ~~allowed~~ <u>allocated</u> ~~when~~ <u>if assigned</u> a lower priority level ~~is assigned~~; ~~and~~

reserving ~~bandwidth~~ <u>traffic channels</u> for ~~the users at~~ <u>a plurality of subscriber units assigned</u> the lowest priority levels and creating a lowest priority queue to allow at least some access to <u>the traffic channels to the plurality of subscriber units</u> ~~users with~~ <u>assigned</u> the lowest priority; and

~~assigning~~ <u>allocating</u> the <u>traffic</u> channels for communication between the base station and subscriber units ~~based~~ <u>depending</u> upon the <u>subscriber unit's</u> ~~corresponding~~ <u>assigned</u> priority level of ~~requesting field units so identified when the resources requested of the base station exceeds the predetermined threshold~~.

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1 wherein the identified priority level of the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit requesting allocation of traffic channels</u> defines a maximum continuous allocation of resources ~~entitled to~~ <u>for</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> to transmit data information from ~~a~~ <u>the</u> subscriber unit to the base station over ~~multiple assigned~~ <u>the allocated</u> traffic channels of the wireless

communication system, and the method further comprising:

detecting whether a <u>predetermined</u> time limit for <u>the</u> ~~previously assigned~~ <u>allocated traffic</u> channels has been exceeded for a continuous transmission of data <u>information</u> based on ~~a corresponding~~ <u>the assigned</u> priority level of the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> and, if so, the method further comprising:

discontinuing ~~a data transfer~~ <u>the transmission of data information</u> by the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u>;

deallocating use of previously ~~assigned~~ <u>allocated</u> channels; and

decreasing the priority level of the subscriber unit to a lower priority level, the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ <u>allocating</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> ~~to~~ use of fewer <u>traffic</u> channels than otherwise allowed when a higher priority level is assigned.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method for providing multiple grades of service in a ~~demand~~ access wireless communication system, comprising:

~~identifying when a demand for resources of a base station exceeds a predetermined threshold;~~

identifying a priority level of a ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> requesting allocation of ~~bandwidth~~ <u>a plurality of traffic channels</u> for transmitting data information to a base station depending on whether a previous historical usage of resources by that ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> exceeds a predetermined threshold, such that:

if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> is higher than the threshold, the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> is assigned a lower priority level for transmitting data information, <u>wherein</u> the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ <u>allocates</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> ~~to~~ use of fewer

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channels than ~~are~~ otherwise <u>allocated</u> ~~allowed when~~ <u>if assigned</u> a high

priority level ~~is assigned~~, and if the previous historical usage by the

~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> is lower than the threshold, the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber</u>

<u>unit</u> is assigned a higher priority level for transmitting data

information, <u>wherein</u> the high priority level ~~entitling~~ <u>allocates</u> the ~~user~~

<u>subscriber unit</u> ~~use of~~ more channels than <u>are</u> otherwise ~~allowed~~

<u>allocated</u> ~~when~~ <u>if assigned</u> a lower priority level ~~is assigned~~;

     reserving ~~bandwidth~~ <u>traffic channels</u> for <u>a plurality of subscriber</u>

<u>units assigned</u> ~~the users at the~~ <u>a</u> lowest priority levels and creating a

lowest priority queue to allow at least some access <u>to the traffic</u>

<u>channels to the plurality of subscriber units assigned</u> ~~for users with~~ the

lowest priority <u>level</u>; and

     allocating ~~bandwidth~~ <u>traffic channels</u> to the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u>

depending upon the <u>subscriber unit's</u> ~~corresponding~~ <u>assigned</u> priority level ~~so~~

~~identified when the resources requested of the base station exceeds the~~

~~predetermined threshold~~.

    5.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the priority

level <u>of the subscriber unit requesting allocation of traffic channels</u> ~~for transmitting~~

~~data~~ defines a maximum continuous allocation of resources ~~entitled~~ to the ~~user~~

<u>subscriber unit</u> to transmit data information from ~~a~~ <u>the</u> subscriber unit to the base

station over ~~multiple assigned~~ <u>the allocated</u> traffic channels of the wireless

communication system.

    6.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 5 further comprising:

detecting whether a <u>predetermined</u> time limit for <u>the</u> allocated channels has

been exceeded for a continuous transmission of data ~~information~~ based on ~~a corresponding~~ the assigned priority level of the ~~user~~ subscriber unit and, if so, the method further comprising:

discontinuing ~~a data transfer~~ the transmission of data information by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit;

deallocating use of previously ~~assigned~~ allocated channels; and

decreasing the priority level of the subscriber unit to a lower priority level, the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ allocating the ~~user~~ subscriber unit ~~to~~ use of fewer traffic channels than otherwise allowed when a higher priority level is assigned.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein a ~~user~~ subscriber unit is allocated resources depending on a cumulative amount of data information previously ~~transferred~~ transmitted from ~~a~~ the subscriber unit to the base station.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the predetermined threshold defines a cumulative amount of data information that a ~~user~~ subscriber unit can transmit over specified period of time without the subscriber unit being assigned to a lower priority level.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the predetermined threshold varies over time.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the previous historical usage of resources by the subscriber unit is determined by ~~comparing~~

<u>tracking the</u> usage <u>of resources by the subscriber unit</u> over a period of at least several past days.

11.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing multiple grades of service in a ~~demand~~ wireless communication system, comprising at a base station:

~~a processor that determines when a demand for resources of a base station exceeds a predetermined threshold;~~

a processor <u>configured to</u> ~~that identifies~~ <u>identify</u> a priority level of a ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> requesting allocation of ~~bandwidth~~ <u>traffic channels</u> for transmitting data information to the base station ~~depending on~~ <u>and allocate traffic channels for transmitting data information from the subscriber unit using the identified priority level of the subscriber unit depending on</u> whether a previous historical usage of resources by ~~that user~~ <u>the subscriber unit</u> exceeds a predetermined threshold, such that

if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> is higher than the threshold, the processor ~~assigning~~ <u>assigns</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> ~~of~~ a lower priority level for transmitting data information, <u>wherein</u> the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ <u>allocates</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> ~~to use of~~ fewer channels than <u>are</u> otherwise ~~allowed~~ <u>allocated</u> ~~when~~ <u>if assigned</u> a higher priority level ~~is assigned~~, and

if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> is lower than the threshold, the processor ~~assigning~~ <u>assigns</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> a higher priority level for transmitting data information, <u>wherein</u> the higher priority level ~~entitling~~ <u>allocates</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> ~~use of~~ more channels than <u>are</u> otherwise ~~allowed~~

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allocated ~~when~~ <u>if assigned</u> a lower priority level ~~is assigned; and~~

the processor <u>further configured to</u> ~~reserving bandwidth~~ <u>reserve</u> <u>traffic channels</u> for ~~the users~~ <u>a plurality of subscriber units assigned</u> ~~at~~ the lowest priority levels and ~~creating~~ <u>create</u> a lowest priority queue to allow at least some access to ~~users~~ <u>the traffic channels to the plurality</u> <u>of subscriber units</u> ~~with~~ <u>assigned</u> the lowest priority; and

the processor <u>further configured to</u> ~~allocating~~ <u>allocate</u> ~~bandwidth~~ <u>traffic channels</u> to the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> depending upon the <u>subscriber unit's</u> ~~corresponding~~ <u>assigned</u> priority level ~~so identified~~ ~~when the resources requested of the base station exceeds the~~ ~~predetermined threshold.~~

12.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the <u>identified</u> priority level <u>of the subscriber unit requesting allocation of traffic</u> <u>channels</u> ~~for transmitting data~~ defines a maximum continuous allocation of resources ~~entitled to~~ <u>for</u> the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> to transmit data information from ~~a~~ <u>the</u> subscriber unit to the base station over ~~multiple assigned~~ <u>the allocated</u> traffic channels of the wireless communication system.

13.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 12 wherein:
        the processor <u>is configured to</u> ~~detects~~ whether a <u>predetermined</u> time limit for <u>the</u> allocated <u>traffic</u> channels has been exceeded for a continuous transmission of data <u>information</u> based on ~~a corresponding~~ <u>the assigned</u> priority level of the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit</u> and, if so:
                the processor <u>is configured to</u> ~~discontinues~~ ~~a data transfer~~ <u>the</u> <u>transmission of data information</u> by the ~~user~~ <u>subscriber unit;</u>

the processor ~~is configured to~~ deallocates use of previously ~~assigned~~ allocated channels; and

the processor ~~is configured to~~ decreases the priority level of the subscriber unit to a lower priority level, the lower priority ~~entitling~~ allocating the ~~user~~ subscriber unit ~~to~~ use of fewer channels than otherwise allowed when a higher priority level is assigned.

14.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the processor ~~is configured to~~ allocates resources to the ~~a user~~ subscriber unit depending on a cumulative amount of data ~~information~~ previously ~~transferred~~ transmitted from ~~a~~ the subscriber unit to the base station.

15.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the predetermined threshold defines a cumulative amount of data ~~information~~ that a ~~user~~ subscriber unit can transmit over a specified period of time without the subscriber unit being assigned ~~to~~ a lower priority level.

16.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the predetermined threshold varies over time.

17.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the processor is configured to determines the previous historical usage of resources by the subscriber unit by ~~comparing~~ tracking the usage of resources by the subscriber unit over a period of at least several past days.

18.-24. Canceled.